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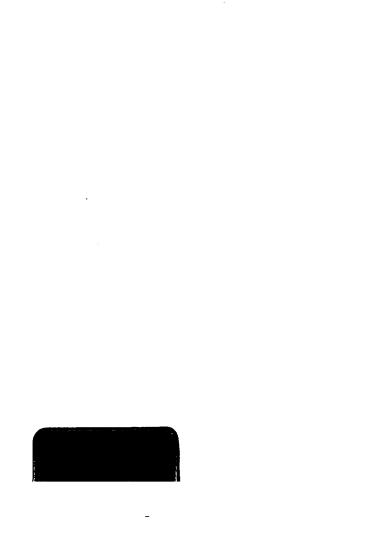
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# SERMON

Preach'd at

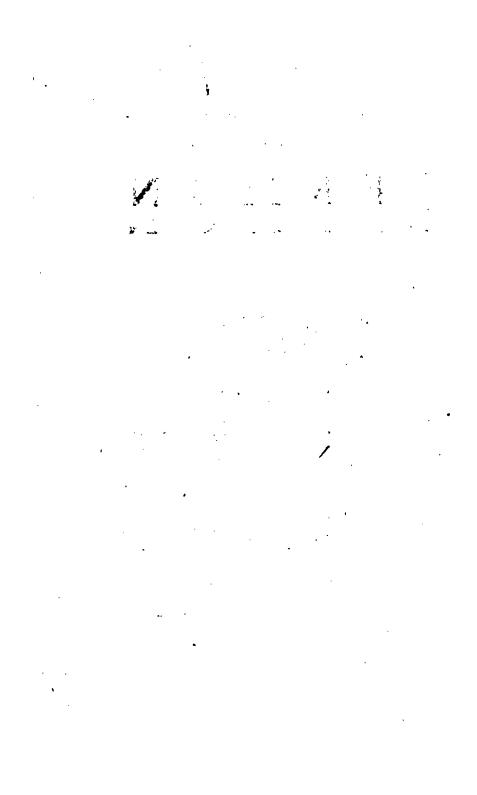
Islington, and Silver-Street,
September 22, 1745.

On Account of the

PRESENT REBELLION.

Price Six-pence.

1. 6-149.



A

# SERMON

Preached at

Islington, and Silver-Street, September 22, 1745.

On Account of the

### PRESENT REBELLION.

By J. GRIGG.

Published by REQUEST.

### LONDON:

Printed for J. Buckland, at the Buck in Paternofter-Row. 1745.

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### To the Congregation of

## Protestant Dissenters

AT

## ISLINGTO N.

DEAR FRIENDS,

of this publick Nature were made among you; and the Regard you profess me, as well as continuing to engage me in your Services, seem some favourable Symptoms, that (by a Divine Blessing) your Advantage, as well as Acceptance, has been attained.

To

## DEDICATION.

Instrumental in introducing a Method of worshipping God according to the Dictates of your Consciences, must be a pleasurable Resection to such an *Instrument*; let such then, as have been employ'd in this Manner, resect with Pleasure;—and some little Share of it at least be mine!

That God has so favoured your Beginnings may be your Wonder, and should be his Praise; may your Procedures be equally, or more favoured, and all proportional Praise paid where it is due!

The

## DEDICATION.

The following Sermon was first delivered among you, and at the Request of some of you, now published: It is the first Attempt the Author has made of this kind, and throws itself into your Hands to be perused with the Candour with which it was heard.

In gathering, fettling, increasing, as a Part of the real Church of God, "The Bless-" ing of the Lord be upon "you; be blessed in the "Name of the Lord."

FAREWELL.

Little Committee Control

### 

### PSALM CXXIX. 8.

Neither do they which go by say, The Blessing of the Lord be upon you; we bless you in the Name of the Lord.

Y Israel in the first, and Zion in the the fixth Verse of this Psalm, we may understand the then apparent Church, or (which always was and will be the same thing) People of God, a Church whose Character was like that of which we profess to be Members, throughly Protestant. Against Idolatries, Superstitions and other Wickedneffes of Heart and Life, through all their Articles of Doctrine, and Scenes of Conduct, did they most conscientiously and heartily protest. Now, if a Purity, a Divinity of Principle, and a consequent Piety of Life, distinctly constituted a Church of God of old, can there be any reasonable Pretenfions fions to a Church of God now, where these plain Strokes of Character are wanting? and where they appear, (not to say the only) don't they at least dentonstrate the visible Church. Whether therefore the Church of Rome be not most unreasonable in her Pretentions to these Marks, let simpartiality determine; and that the Church Protestant has not a better Claim, let the Sons of Rome make out if they can.

Nay, in this very Pfalm the Church is supposed to have been distressed with Enemies and Persecution; Circumstances which all the World knows are oftener the Lor of the Protestant than of the Romish Church.

But who are they that hate the Church? Why such as feel a Wish, or tay out an Endeavour against her. Too easily then can we determine the Protestant to be the hated Church; and good Fortune, but very hard Work will the Church of Rome have, get clear of the Hatred with which the stands charged. The Cruelty of her Hand is the most powerful Argument of the Inveteracy of her Heart; we have felt the Reality of the one, and more than guess the Reality of the other. The present Invasion is no other than her Hand lifted against, or stretch'd over the Protestant Church in these Kingdoms; what Blow may be given, God knows, but this is undoubted ---- She will make it fall as cruelly heavy as the can.

Having

Having thus substituted other Words for Israel and Zion, we can determine a Meaning to the visible Church of God in Britain, in which we include all true Protestants, or professing Christians of that Character; and her Enomies we can as determinately agree to be all those that inwardly wish, or outwardly labour her Disadvantage or Ruin: Her real Enomies therefore, open or covert, are all that scheme, lead, soment, or abett the

Rebellion of the North.

The Church then that we have described. let her recollect her past Afflictions --- her past Deliverances --- and to the Notes which Israel set to this divine Song, let her ring it out from the Tongues of all her Members. "-Many a Time have they afflicted me from my "Youth, many a Time have they afflicted me "from my Youth; yet they have not prevailed " against me: The Plowers plowed upon " my Back; they made long their Furrows. "The Lord is rightcous; he hath cut afun-"der the Cords of the Wicked." And if the rest of this Psalm will bear to run in a future Tense, it may be sung through by the Church, as one of the Triumphs of Faith. "They shall all be confounded, and turned " back, that hate Zion, They shall be es "Grass upon the House-tops, which wither-" eth afore it groweth up; wherewith the "Mower filleth not his Hand; nor he that " bindeth Sheaves, his Bosom. Neither do "they which go by fay, The Bleffing of the В 2

- " Lord be upon you; we bless point the "Name of the Lord." But if these four last Verses of the Psalm be allowed to stand in the Form of a Prayer, we learn: from them these two Things.
- I. That we must by no Means with or ipray for Success to the Enemies of the Church. But,
- II. By all Means most ardently wish and pray against it.

I. We must by no Means wish or pay for their Success.

It is hard to determine how long it has been the Custom to pass benedictory Salumtions upon one another; fuch as "The Lord " bless -- prosper -- be with you, &c. It has been used by dying to surviving Friends by Friends at meeting -- at parting -- and when entering upon Schemes, or Performances of Life; and when done with any Devotion, Sincerity, or Meaning, we may hope it meets with divine Acceptance, and therefore we bestow upon it no human Censures: It is ma\_ king an Acknowledgment of the Providence or Grace of God prefiding over, and influencing to their Issue all human Affairs; and never with more Propriety can it be used, than before an intended Battle. The Prefence of God can never be more wanted,

can never be better invoked. The Troops we have feen passing of late for the North, as none of us could do more, who could do less than attend them with "The God of Battles, --- The Lord of Mosts go with "you;" or in the Language of this Psalm, "The Blessing of the Lord be upon you; "we bless you in the Name of the Lord."

But still upon this Argument can never be justified a thousand "God bless me's---Lord be merciful to me's, &c." Expressions which, the pronounced without meaning, cannot be done without Impiety. such Expressions can fetch nothing from Heaven, as they carry nothing thither; they are in every Sense vain, and consequently every way violative of a divine Command. There is nothing in any Attribute, in any Name of God, but what is facred; and it is a Prostitution of it, to use it in any but some sacred Concerns. Profane then is it to invoke God in a triding or meanless Manner? How fill more to to invoke him in a bad Caufe? which must be the Case, if in God's Name we wish any Success to the Church's Enemies.

Now her Buemies are either covert and hypocritical, to open and avowed; and the one
as mally and guiltive as the other; the one
generally employed in scheming, and the other in executing. When Men openly appear in Defiance of the Interests and Friends
of Religion, 'tis generally when they think
them-

themselves pretty sure of Success and their Employment behind the Curtain is only to get all into a State of Preparation, the one to dress for the Shew, and the other to exhibit, away, or throw all into Scenes of Action Now for Plot, Cunning, Contrivance and Delign, a neighbouring Nation perhaps may. outdo this or any other Nation upon Earth. and perhaps is not outdone by infernal Worlds neither. Nor is it to be wondered that the Schemes of the French should lie deep as Hell, when there is such a free Communication betwixt the two Realms; Schemes, which when they have been discovered, the World has rather wondered to which of the two it has been indebted for them:

Well! perhaps Paris, Madrid, Rome, and the Power we just now mentioned, may have been concerned together in forming a Scheme that now more than begins to discover itself; and for the Accomplishment of which a young pretended Prince now appears at the Head of a considerable Multitude in Scotland; pray there, fore for Success we must not, either to the Actor in this Tragedy, or to any of the Prompters behind the Scenes.

"Tis to be feared there are in this Nation who wish the present Rebellion too well; they don't care to be open, and active, and immediate Instruments in the Distresses of good Men, and the Ruin of the Protestant Religion; and yet while their Hands are disen-

gaged, their Hearts are as warm and vigorous in the Affair as possible: They are cautious of being Agents themselves, but they wish well to those that are so; seel a secret and powerful Ardour that they might prosper, and perhaps venture to beg of God they may do so. Now at the same time as this is improus, its Cowardice, Contradiction, and a Sense of a bad Cause; Cowardice, to keep disengaged where I wish all possible Help; Contradiction, to beg of God to appear where I dare not; and my very Fear of engaging in

it, betrays a Sense of its Badness.

But as 'tis the Heart God looks at in Religion, 'tis that he regards in Irreligion too; and ever so secretly engaged against God now. Time will come when God will engage against us openly. Now fuch Petitions as these, whether merely mental, or thrown out into Speech, they carry the same Meaning to God; and whether answered or not, the Petitioners are nevertheless guilty, but indeed equally so with the very Actors for whom they pray. For, 1. 'Tis asking God to engage against himself. God is so kind as to put himself in his People's Place; their Cause is his Cause: their Friends'and their Enemies are his; and as every Favour done them he esteems as his own, so every Blow made at them, reaches the very Apple of his Eye \*. To invoke the Almighty therefore to be theirs, is to invoke voke him to be his own Enemy .--- Shocking

Impiety! Nay,

adly, If we are good Men, 'tis imploring God to be our Enemy too. What! shall we lift one Prayer, or feel one Wish, that the Endeavours of the Enemies to good Men may succeed? Is not this wishing and praying against ourselves? What! wish to see the Enemies of the Church triumphant? 'Tis to wish all its Members, and ourselves too, their Victims. Asking God to be a Party for them, is asking him to be a Party against us. Now to do this, is in the

First Place, doing all in our own Power on the wrong Side; 'tis giving the Enemy our very Hearts; and what more can we do for them than to commit them to Heaven, and wish them Success from thence?

adh, 'Tis endeavouring to gain the ntmost that God can do for them too; to get Omnipotence on their Side, which is to get them infinitely affished.

Well! to the attempting, the daring Rebels that we hear of, who dare fay or con-

ceive one "God speed?"

Such as dare, are Partakers with them in their present Guilt, and deserve to share with them in suture Punishment: But as there may be some who secretly wish them well, who are not at present among the madding Multitude, there may be others a little different from these in Temper and Character;

**fuch** 

fuch as are a little afraid of their Successes, and yet no very great Friends to the Protestant Religion neither. There are who would be glad enough to wrest facred Liberties from others, and yet are not over-fond of parting with civil ones themselves. To think the young Pretender and his Party should prosper, and carry their Point, might almost set them a trembling; and 'tis after a Struggle with themselves, and at last, with a kind of Violence to Nature, tho' not to their unnatural Principles, if they are brought to wish them Prosperity.

Let all Persecutors think of this. Their's is a Cause that God cannot wish well to, or lend any hand in; no good Men can ask him to do it; there's nothing sacred that can have any Concern in it; every thing good trembles from it; in short, there can be nothing but the Devil, or devilish Men, that can pray, or smile to see them succeed.——Let Men of present Rebellion think of this. For the Success of their Engagements who can they suppose will ever wish or pray? Not one good Man in Britain; no, nor all bad ones neither; but however the Prayers of the Wicked they are welcome to, for they are an Abomination to God †. Let this then inspirit us all in the

present Juncture. "The Bleffing of the Lord be upon them," we cannot, we dare not say; and suppose it be faid at Prance, at Rome, or any where else, it will sure be no better than wasted Breath. The Prayers in deed of the Righteous, were they rising to Heaven against us, we might well dread ern, for they avail much "; but good or righteous Man there can be none at France, at Rome, in Scotland, or even in Britain, that with any rational Hope of an Answer can lift one such Prayer to Heaven.

II. We must ardently wish, and pray against the Church's Enemies. And the several Heads under which to range our Petitions, we may collect from this very Psaking of, We must pray that God would prevent their desired and intended Accomplishing ments. 'Tis with admirable Aptitude and Beauty they are compared to Plowers. Now, ist, The Plow wounds, cleaves, tears, and rends up the Earth; and to torment, to inflict, is the proper Character of Persecutors. What Instruments but they have employ'd in this Way? which, like the Share to the Earth, have rack'd and torn the Church of

God? The Church, which has been like the passive Ground before and beneath them.

ady, The Plow, by constant Exercise, will-dishearten and wear out the Ground. So would Persecuters treat Christians; they would, satigue, disempower, render them useless and worthless. Is Persecution then a Plow? We are to pray not that God would, but that he would not speed the Plow; that he would unharness it, and prevent its making one Furrow upon the Backs of the Righteous.

And 'tis unavoidably observable how Perfecutors have failed of their own, and brought about the Designs of God; their Intent has been to torture good Men; to render them like so much fallow Ground: But God has intended, and accomplished too, quite a different thing. The two best Purposes of the Plow are to root up and kill Weeds, and prepare the Earth for the Reception of the Seed: Now God hates to see Weeds, and 'tis Fruit he loves to find in his Church: but without fome shaking and turning up, it would be quite over-run, all bespread with Weeds, or lie like a meer Heath, a Desert; but behold! Persecution is like a Plow in the best Sense; (No Thanks indeed to Persecutors for that) it has torn up and destroyed a thousand choaky Weeds; it has stirred up, shook into Mould this facred Ground the Church. at which Seasons God has thrown in the proper Seed, like new-plowed Land it has kindly

kindly received it; the Growth has been free and easy, and the Harvest has been rich and glorious.

Thus the Defert has been turned into 12 fruitful Field; the Wilderness and the scalisary Place has been glad, rejoiced and blofformed as the Rose \*, the little Hills have rejoiced on every fide, the Valleys have laughed and

fung.

Well! the Wish and Intent of those at the Head of present Rebellions, is to plow, to wound, distress, and wear out the pious Part of this Nation; let our Prayer then run-thus; " O Lord dispeed their Plow!" And come let us pluck up a Heart, and fear them note Let us be of good Courage, and God Incl strengthen our Hearts +. 'Tis to be hoped we are a real Church of God; but where the expected, the demanded Fruit? not a kind of a barren Land? Well, this very Shaking and Commotion may be like that of the Plow to weed, and fructify is God may be about to prepare us for Sced. with which he intends to fow us, and a Seedtime may be previous to a Crop anon. Come, let us hope God is faying concerning his Church, "Destroy it not, for a Blessing is " in it \( \pmath{t}\). Come, Sirs, God may stilt be meaning us well: Instead of devoting us to

<sup>\*</sup> Ija. xxxv. 1. Pfal. lxv. 12. + Psal. xxvii. 14. 1 I/a. lxv. 8.

perpetual Barrenness, he may be about to manure us for future intended Services; and tho' year after year he may have come seeking Fruit, and finding none; and might indeed be dishearten'd from any future Attempt with us, and like so much Lumber cut us down, let us fill hope he will spare us this Year also ||. And O! for a plenteous Harvest, to reward his sparing Pains!

2dly, We are to pray that God would confound them, and turn them back; that he would cheat their Expectances, by diffucceeding their Schemes, throw them into Confufion, that, like a routed Army, incapable of rallying any more, they may have nothing to betake themselves to for Security but Flight: In short, that Shame, instead of Success, may be the Reward of all their impious Endeavours.

It may be objected here, And is this the Spirit of Christianity, which through the New Testament, especially, breather the Doctrine of forgiving Injuries? Is this to \* love your Enemies? to bless them that curse you? to do good to them that hate you? and pray for them that despitefully use and even persecute you?

To which the following may be one, tho not the only Answer that might be given,

Luke xiii, 7.

\* Mattb. v. 44.

namely,

namely, That the People we are enjoined to love, blefs, do good to, and pray for are principally and generally our perional. Engineers and Abusers; but the Enemies, the Injurers of the Church in general, are heartily to be prayed against: Not that we should pray God to damn them, or absolutely de stroy them; we are not to hunt for their Lives, to thirst for their Blood; but while they are hunting and thirsting for ours, was may implore God to disappoint them of their Drink and their Prey; and this is but the same Sense of that Expression, "The Lord."

3dly, We are to pray that this Confusion may be sudden and speedy. The farther they proceed, the more mischievous. God doth indeed suffer Danger to urge far and near a but its generally with this View, that Delie verance may appear great and glorious.

'Tis upon Danger's Mount, as upon that of Sinai, that God descends, while the People stand trembling round it, and know he is, there. Nay sometimes a great deal of Blood is spilt in the Desence of a good Cause; and when at last it is rescued, and from the very opening Jaws of Ruin too, 'tis all done perhaps by the most apparently improbable. Means.—O Britain! recollect thy Dangers, recollect thy Salvations!

Well! Persecutors are compared in this Psalm to the Grass, and that not of the com-

•

mon fort neither. Now there is so near a Resemblance in the Life, the Growth, the Duration of the Grass and those of Man, that the same Things may be afferted of them both; \* all Flesh therefore, or human Nature, is Grass. Now a Persecutor is all Deviation from human Nature, and won't so well bear Comparison with the same thing; he is therefore most aptly compared to the Grass on the House-top; of which observe

the following Things.

1ft, Such Grass will come to no Perfection. 'Tis not of half the Abidance of the Grass of the Field, which itself rises but for a Summer, flourishes but for a Spring: Now when it feems Spring and Summer with Persecutors, we may pray that their Spring may be short and severe; their Summer faint and dying. But Grass upon the House-top won't stand a Summer, or even a Spring thro'; it has not proper Depth of Earth for Foundation; has no where to strike its Root; Shower and Sun are too much and firong for it, and the Want of either is presently ruinous. Such in some Senfes is, and in every Senfe we should pray There is no Soil for it Perfecution may be. through the whole Creation of God; if reared it be, it must be like a Crop that is forced by unnatural Heats; and yet forced as it is,

it is but a Weed when reared. However. rise, spread, flourish a while it may; but fure the Tears of good Men are not referved for nothing; (for God has a Bottle for every Tear) Tears then, that thro' fo many Ages have been streaming, showering from Protestant Eyes, and are still in Reserve, will be streamed, shower'd back again over all the rifing Crop of Persecution, and all will be a Deluge of divine Vengeance. But the the Grass of the Meadow ripen into a Crop, that upon the House-top comes to no such Maturity. Like such Grass be every Persecutor upon Earth; may they be nipt as they rife. be blasted before they ripen into Harvest.

2dly, Such Grass is of no manner of Service; it has neither Heart nor Taste; it dies unmown, and is not worth gathering home: just such a Crop are Persecutors; they are of no Service to God or Man; they are in them. felves capable of answering no good purpose any way. Persecution is a very Infernal: its chief Seat is Rome; from thence, like the Saviour from Heaven, it pretends to wander to feek and fave; but in fact, like Satan from Hell, it rages to and fro', a mere Fury feeking whom it may devour. The Tongue it may have gained to the Popish Party, but the Heart (the prime Significance in Religion) it never did, it never could gain. Racks and Piles may affrighten Men into feigned Confessions.

fessions, but they can never change our Sentiments. So that Persecution never did any thing better even for the Church of Rome, than throng and people it with Hy-

pocrites.

3dly, Such Grass is none of the Concern of Providence; 'tis a Production of Chance and Irregularity. Such is Persecution; it is no Crop that Heaven has fown: Its Soil, if it has any, is monstrous Impiety, and that is no Soil of Heaven's preparing; in its Root, in its Spire, it is nothing that Heaven produced, nothing that Heaven will cherish: If it thrive, flourish, ripen into Harvest, it is with no Influences from Heaven, but Hell; it is no Plantation, no Production of God's, and as it is none of his Work, it can never be pronounc'd good. In short, neither in Seed, nor Produce has it any thing divine in it, but it is a mere Tare of the Enemy's fowing \*, and if permitted to grow with good Men, till the general Harvest, the Distinction then will be all Perspicuity, the Tares will be bundled for the Fire, and the Wheat gathered home to the Barn.

Matt. xiii. 25.

#### CONCLUSION.

We learn from the Whole, how to behave upon this very critical Occasion. In the

First Place, then, let us guard against fiding with the Friends or Abettors of this Must not we pray for the Rebellion. young Pretender and his Forces? much less must we fight for them. Must we pray against them? why, if called to it, let us fight against them too. Yes, thou best as well as greatest of Princes, George! by our free Choice, and the Grace of God, our rightful Sovereign and Faith's Defender! in Hand and Heart we are all at thy Service. Nay, let us beware of popish Emissaries, who upon this Occasion are busy in their Attempts to proselyte us: And to this Purpose, let us examine our own and the Principles of that Church; compare them with one another, and the Comparison will determine in our Favour. Protestant Principles will bear open Day-light; the more they are known, the better they are loved; but those of Popery are obliged to the Darkness, in which they are wrapt up, that they

they are no more detested. Nay, there is such a Thing as siding with our present Enemies, without a present Change of our Principles; our Notions of Liberty and Doctrines of Religion, we are told, may be retained, and yet we may innocently join our *Invader*: He comes smiling, fawning, wheedling, just like the Nation that sent him; but let him and that Nation know, we can distinguish the Flatterer from the Friend, and can as heartily despise their feigned Caresses, as we detest their real Principles.

No, Sirs! pretend what he will, this mock Prince brings his Tenets of Religion from Rome, and his Taste for Government from France: He comes with a Pretence to lead us into a Field larger, and gayer with Flowers of Liberty than ever; but, Britons, venture not one Step into it, for fear of the

Snake in the Grass.

adly, We need not tremble for the Event of this Invasion; the Struggle may possibly be strong and dreadful, but still the End we may hope will be blest, and glorious. That Loyalty for his Majesty, that Zeal for our Liberties, that breathe thro' the Nation, shew it is alive, and vigorous; and the Thousands that are gathering and pouring D<sub>2</sub> against

against the Northern Rebels, are sure no bad Omen; and especially, when at the same Instant so much of the Nation is breathing itself forth in Prayer; and from the alternate Prevalence of the two Armies, according as Moses listed or dropt his Hands we learn, that Success is like a Machine that is set, and kept a-going by the Breath of Prayer.

3dly, We learn how to form our Prayers upon this Criss; and let them rise in this Manner.

"O! thou all-powerful God of Hosts! thou all-gracious God of Britain! look down upon our Land with a favourable Eye, and interpose in its Behalf thy favourable Arm! May the venturous Irvader in Scotland be dis-sped in all his Attempts against our rightful King, our valued Liberty, our divine Religion! May
Discord confound his Instructors, and Infatuation urge him into a Snare! Such as
have promised to join him, may their
Hearts fail them, and his Hopes be disappointed! Should France endeavour to
transport their Troops to his Assistance,
may the British Fleets, or the Winds of

1

Exod. xvii. 11.

<sup>&</sup>quot; Heaven,

"Heaven, devote them to the Ruin of " Spain's invincible Armament! May the " High-Landers that have lifted under " him, (deluded with Hopes of changing "their Prince to Advantage) fee thro' the " French Flattery of his Promises to the ". bellish Meaning of his Heart; be struck " with a Conviction of the Badness of his " Cause; from the Snare where they must " foon be entangled, escape e'er it be too " late, to their native Mountains, and leave " the Deluder to accomplish his Scheme a-" lone, or escape as he can to his native "Country too! But if Engagements there " must be, may the Rebels fall or sly in the " Day of Battle! And if its utmost Strength " must be exerted, and the Blow be so vio-" lent, as to shake the whole Nation that " deals it, when once it is dealt, may Bri-" tish Liberty, the Protestant Religion, and "the Throne of his present Majesty, fix " firmer than before, and fix for ever! " And may the present audacious Attempt " be so effectually crushed, as to en-" tail eternal Disgrace upon the Pretender " that made it, and the Nation that favour'd " him; and be effectually fecurative against " any fuch Attempt for the future! Be they " foreign or native then, the Troops that " are marching, or intended against a popish "e Pretender, with all the Volunteers that are gathering in Defiance of the common Enemy, the Bleffing of the Lord be upon them; we blefs them in the Name of the Lord." AMEN.



#### A HYMN.

WHAT will not Rome and Hell pretend? (Still each to each a mutual Friend)
Dispute thy Throne, great George! they dare,
Tho' Heav'n and Freedom fix'd Thee there.

And what Rebellion! fires thy Brain? Thy Hopes are Dreams, thy Dreams are vain: Britain, thou French-deluded Tool, Has Sons to fight, and Laws to rule.

O! madly venturous Youth, beware! Heav'n bas an Ear for British Prayer; And spight of Benedicts from Rome, From British Arm expect thy Doom.

Be loyal, every British Breast!
His Troops succeed! and George be blest!
Till France ber speedless Aims deplore,
And Chevaliers pretend no more.

FINIS.

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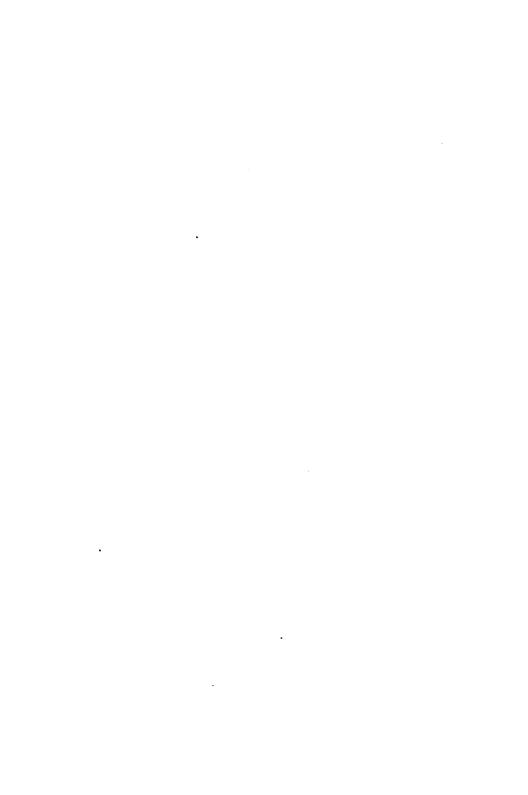








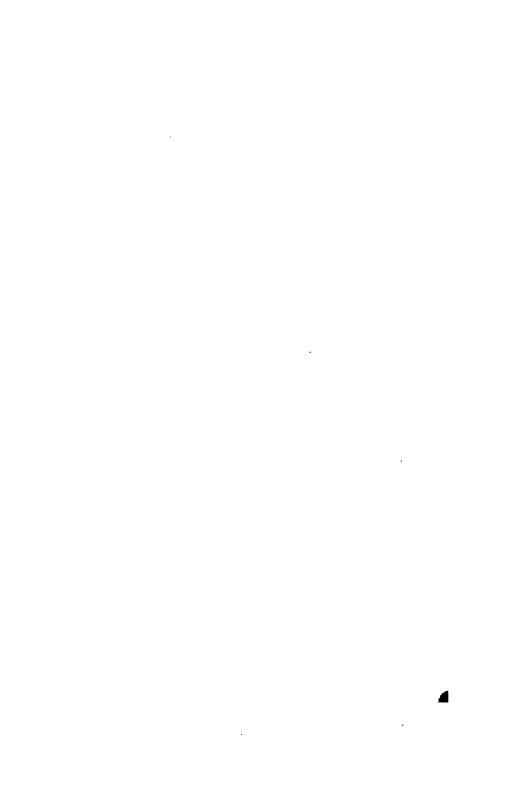
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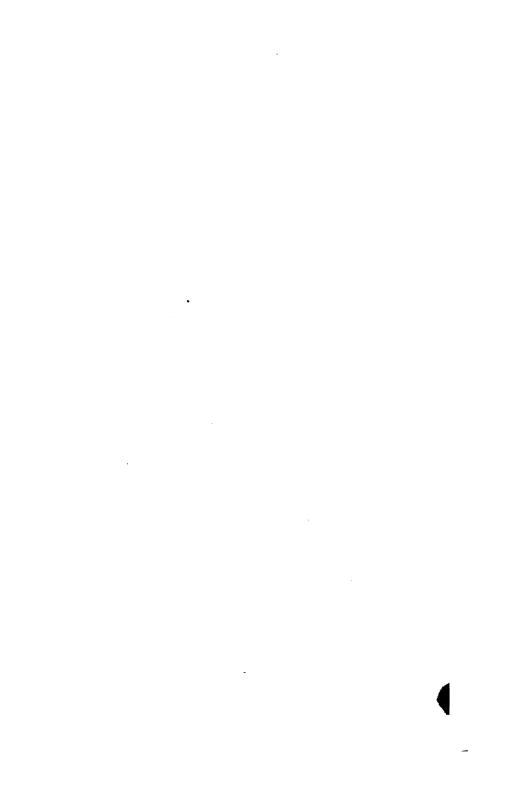














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